

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

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TAGS: EFIS, CA

SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION TO CLOSURE OF ATLANTIC PORTS TO
SOVIET FISHING FLEET

1. PREDICTABLY, THE ATLANTIC FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
IS PLEASED WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN CLOSING
ATLANTIC PORTS TO SOVIET FISHING FLEET. THE
ASSOCIATION'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SAID ACTION SHOWS
THAT CANADA "HAS GOT A LITTLE BACKBONE AND GUTS".
HE SAID THAT THE 2,000 FISHERMEN REPRESENTED BY 900
CAPTAINS WHO BELONG TO THE ASSOCIATION ARE 100 PERCENT
BEHIND THE MOVE.

2. AN ADVERSE REACTION CAME FROM THE LOCAL HALIFAX
MANAGER OF KERR STEAMSHIPS WHICH ACTS AS NORTH
AMERICAN AGENTS FOR THE SOVIET FISHING FLEET. HE
SAID MANY COMPANIES IN THE PORTS WOULD BE SERIOUSLY
AFFECTED BY LOSS OF BUSINESS WHICH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY
NOW GO TO ST PIERRE-MIQUELON AND U S PORTS. HE
SAID THAT THE NATIONAL HARBOR BOARD WOULD LOSE 55,000
DOLLARS IN PORT FEES ANNUALLY AND THAT PILOTAGE
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REVENUE IN HALIFAX ALONE WOULD BE AT LEAST 400,000

DOLLARS ANNUALLY. HE ESTIMATED THAT THE SOVIET FISHING FLEET SPENDS 4 MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR IN EAST COAST CANADIAN PORTS. ONE SHIP'S CHANDLER IN HALIFAX, F B MARINE LTD, EXPECTS TO LOSE 1 MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR.

3. THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ICNAF (INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERY), LEWIS R DAY, SAID THE FRENCH ISLANDS OF ST PIERRE AND MIQUELON OFFER VIABLE ALTERNATIVES AS PORTS OF CALL FOR THE SOVIET SHIPS AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION WILL NOT SERIOUSLY HAMPER THE RUSSIAN FLEET BECAUSE THE RUSSIANS HAVE SUCH A LARGE AND EFFICIENT SUPPORT ARM FOR THEIR FISHERY. THE CLOSURE WILL MEAN SOME TEMPORARY HARDSHIPS BUT THE RUSSIANS WILL OVERCOME THEM BY STEPPING UP THEIR SUPPORT OPERATION. HE NOTED THAT AT RECENT EDINBURGH ICNAF MEETING CANADIAN NEGOTIATORS TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO PERSUADE ICNAF MEMBERS TO REDUCE TAKE ON THE BANKS BY 40 PERCENT BY THREAT TO CLOSE ATLANTIC PORTS.

4. THE PRESIDENT OF ONE OF NOVA SCOTIA'S MEDIUM SIZED FISHERIES, C W MAC LEOD FISHERIES OF PORT MOUTON, AGREES WITH MR DAY'S ESTIMATE THAT CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ACTION WILL CREATE SOME HARDSHIPS BUT WILL DO NOTHING TO PREVENT FURTHER OVERFISHING BY SOVIET AND OTHER FOREIGN FLEETS.

5. LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO HALIFAX PORT MANAGER, RAY BECK, SOVIET FLEET MADE 297 CALLS AT HALIFAX. TWENTY WERE FOR MEDICAL ATTENTION, 44 FOR SHIP REPAIRS, 233 FOR WATER AND PROVISIONS. ALTOGETHER 400 VESSELS OF SOVIET FISHING FLEET VISITED CANADIAN ATLANTIC PORTS IN 1974. MANBEY

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